

## Message Text

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21

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 AID-05 SAB-01 SAM-01 /083 W

----- 121820

R 041028Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 681

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 2907

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR AG XI SS

SUBJECT: ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL AND SAHARA QUESTION

REF: ALGIERS 556

1. REFTEL NOTES EDITORIAL IN ALGERIAN DAILY REPORTING ALLEGED RUMORS COMING FROM CAIRO THAT ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL WILL SOON ADDRESS ITSELF TO SAHARA QUESTION; EDITORIAL NOTES ARAB LEAGUE ACTION WOULD BE LATE VIS-A-VIS THAT OF OAU BUT WOULD NEVERTHELESS BE WELCOME.

2. EMBOFF HAS DISCUSSED RECENTLY WITH TWO SENIOR ARAB LEAGUE SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS QUESTION OF ALGERIAN TACTICS IN THE OAU AND ANTICIPATED ALGERIAN MOVES ON BEHALF OF POLISARIO IN ARAB LEAGUE. BOTH OFFICIALS COMMENTED ON WHAT THEY SEE AS INTERESTING CONTRAST BETWEEN OAU INCLINATION TOWARDS ALGIERS ON SAHARA ISSUE VERSUS HEAVY ARAB LEAGUE SUPPORT FOR MOROCCO ON SAME QUESTION. EMBOFF ASKED ARAB LEAGUE POLITICAL DIRECTOR  
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MARCH 3 IF ALGERIA IS EXPECTED TO RAISE SAHARA QUESTION DURING

ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL DEBATE MARCH 15 AND, SPECIFICALLY, IF HE ANTICIPATED REQUEST FROM ALGERIA THAT POLISARIO BE GIVEN MEMBERSHIP PRIVILEGES IN ARAB LEAGUE SIMILAR TO THOSE WHICH PLO ENJOYS. REPLY WAS THAT NO AGENDA ITEM ON POLISARIO HAS YET BEEN PROPOSED TO ARAB LEAGUE SECRETARIAT. POLITICAL DIRECTOR SAID HE WOULD BE ASTONISHED IF ALGERIA DID ATTEMPT INTRODUCE FORMAL DEBATE ON SUBJECT SINCE, AS GOA'S AMBASSADOR TO ARAB LEAGUE KNOWS VERY WELL, ALMOST ALL OTHER MEMBER STATES WOULD BE SERIOUSLY EMBARRASSED BY SUCH A DEBATE. TWO WEEKS AGO ARAB LEAGUE'S INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DIRECTOR, WHO SERVES AS UNOFFICIAL PRIVATE SECRETARY TO RIAD, TOLD EMBOFF FLATLY THAT ARAB SENTIMENT IS MORE AND MORE SOLIDLY ON MOROCCAN SIDE AND, AS GOA MFA OFFICIALS NOTED TO EMBASSY ALGIERS (REFTEL PARA 4), EGYPT AND SAUDI ARABIA, BOTH OF WHICH OPPOSE POLISARIO CAUSE, CARRY HEAVY WEIGHT IN ARAB LEAGUE POLICY FORMATION.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**To:** STATE  
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